Less power generation by atomic power plants

†1962. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of atomic power plants in the country are generating less power in comparison to their respective installed capacity;

(b) if so, the plant-wise details of the installed capacity of the each of those plants alongwith the power generated by them; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that these plants are even not safe and accidents are very common in these plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir. NPCIL's nuclear power plants are operating well and achieved an overall capacity factor of 75%, 80% and 82% during the financial year 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-01 respectively.

(b) Not applicable in view of (a) above.

(c) No, Sir. All the nuclear power plants are safe.

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) classifies nuclear events in the International Nuclear Events scale (INES). INES is a 0 to 7 point scale. The levels indicate severity of the events in the increasing order. Events of the level 0 are "deviations" and have no safety significance. Events of the level 1 to 3 are "incidents". Events of level 4 to 7 are "accidents". No accident, according to IAEA scale, has occurred so far in any of the nuclear power plant in India.

Sale of wheat rejected by Iraq

1963. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that two Indian Wheat Shipments, which were rejected by Iraq, were later certified to be fit by an International Agency in Dubai and sold there;

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether these consignments were tested by a Mumbai based firm appointed by Grain Board of Iraq before the ship left for Iraq;

(c) whether Government have taken up the matter with Iraqi authorities; and

(d) if so, the Government of Iraq's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) to (d) Iraq has recently rejected four consignments of wheat shipped by there private parties from India insisting that the cargo should be totally free from inorganic matter, such as, sand silica, dust and asphalt, and also live insects. As per the International CODES standards, foreign matter in the grain is permissible upto 2% out of which 1.5% consists of organic matter, such as, chaff, weed seeds, other edible and non-edible grains, etc. and the balance (0.5%) inorganic foreign matter, such as, stones, dust, etc. Quality specifications prescribed in the Iraqi contract provided for the presence of foreign matter upto 2%. The inspection agency agreed by the Grain Board of Iraq had inspected the cargo prior to shipment and declared the wheat consignments fit for human consumption and conforming to the quality specifications of the Iraqi order. However, on arrival of the consignments at Iraqi ports, the Grain Board of Iraq insisted on 'nil' tolerance for inorgainc foreign matter. The Indian delegation that visited Iraq in May, 2001 was informed by Iraqi authorities that, according to their definition, they do not count sand particles under foreign matter. In other works, inorganic matter, which is a part and parcel of foreign matter, like sand, stones, pebbles, clay particles, etc., are not accepted under this category. The explanation given by them was that only organic foreign matter (like chaff, glumes, weed seeds and other edible and inedible grains) are taken under this category. The exporters did not know this position. They presumed that, as in the CODES Standards, the 2% foreign matter would include upto 0.5% in-orgainc matter. The delegation was further informed that the Iraqi flour mills were not having adequate facilities for separation of non-organic matter because of the problem of spare parts required for maintenance of such machines owing to UN sanctions. The delegation was told that the Iraqi authorities had

accordingly taken a decision to reject any wheat stocks found with inorganic matter like sand, stones, etc. The delegation was further informed that Iraq had also rejected the wheat sourced from various other countries on the same grounds.

Foodgrains to A.P.L. people

1964. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have, in a bid to help the drought hit areas, decided to supply foodgrains to the people Above Poverty Line at rates it is supplied to people living Below Poverty Line;

(b) if so, the State where these areas have been identified; and

(c) the quantity of foodgrains to be supplied to each State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government of India has decided that subsidised foodgrains will be allotted for distribution to drought affected families belonging to both below and above poverty line at BPL rates in drought affected districts in eight State viz., Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh & Uttranchal @ 20 kg of foodgrains per family per month for a period of 3 months. The additional allocations at BPL rates will be in addition to the regular entitlement of foodgrains for BPL families under Target Public Distribution System (TPDS) in these areas. So far, special additional allocation have been made for a period of three months in favour of Orissa, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Maharasthra and Himachal Pradesh, as per details given below: